

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Support for the amendment to claims 1, 20, 23 and 34 is found in claims 1, 20, 23 and 34 as originally presented and on pages 3, lines 1-4 and 25, lines 17-19 of the specification. No new matter would be added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 12-14, 20, 23-24, 26-31, 34-35, and 37-42 will remain active in this application with claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 12-14, 23-24, 26-31, 34-35, and 37-42 being under active consideration.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The claimed invention is directed to a method of regulating autonomic nerve activity.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Mitchell and Supervisory Patent Examiner Padmanabhan for the helpful and courteous discussion held with their U.S. representative on October 13, 2005. At that time, applicants' U.S. representative argued that the claimed method used a sesquiterpene alcohol composition which did not have a detectable odor. The examiner agreed that such a method was not suggested by the prior art, however suggested claim language of "not above a detectable threshold" as better describing the properties of the sesquiterpene alcohol composition being used. The following is intended to expand upon the discussion with the examiners.

Stimulation of parasympathetic activity over sympathetic activity is believed to reduce stress and calm aggravated mental states, inducing sleep. Oral and percutaneous administration of active ingredients as well as fragrances have been used to improve sleep induction. Some fragrances have been identified as disagreeable or irritating and accordingly new methods for regulating autonomic nerve activity are sought.

The claimed invention addresses this problem by providing a method for regulating autonomic nerve activity such as by increasing an ECG R-R interval, or decreasing systolic

and/or diastolic blood pressure, by administering by inhalation a composition comprising a sesquiterpene alcohol selected from the group consisting of cedrol, cedrenol, globulol and a mixture thereof, wherein the composition has **no odor above a detectable threshold.**

Applicants have discovered that administration by inhalation of such a sesquiterpene alcohol containing composition, in which the composition has no odor above a detectable threshold, is effective for regulating autonomic nerve activity. Such a method is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited prior art of record.

The rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-5, 23-24, 26-27, 34-35 and 37-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and of claims 8, 12, 28-29 and 39-40 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sasaki et al. U.S. 4,713,291 and of claims 13-14, 30031 and 41-42 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Sasaki et al. in further view of Liu et al. U.S. 5,195,514 are respectfully traversed.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest a method of regulating autonomic nerve activity by administrating by inhalation a composition comprising a sesquiterpene alcohol composition which has no odor above a detectable threshold.

Sasaki et al. describes a fragrant sheath-core composite fiber having a hollow core in which a fragrance is incorporated (see abstract). The goal of the reference is to impart a durable “forest therapy effect” to the article (column 1lines 15-17) The components of the fragrance includes include cedarwood oil (column 5, lines 44-50), which has as main components cedrol and cedrene (column 6, lines 38-42). The object of the invention is to provide a fragrant fiber which has a durable fragrance and has wash resistance (column 1, lines 48-51). As such, the goal of the reference is to provide a composition in which **the detectable odor** is durable. The use of a composition which does not have an odor above a detectable threshold is not suggested.

In contrast, the present invention is directed to a method for regulating autonomic nerve activity, by administering by inhalation a composition comprising a sesquiterpene

alcohol selected from the group consisting of cedrol, cedrenol, globulol and a mixture thereof, wherein the composition has **no odor above a detectable threshold**. Applicants note that the claims have been amended to recite using a composition which has no odor above a detectable threshold. Applicants also note that the phrase “no odor above a detectable threshold” describes a composition in which there is no noticeable perception of odor (page 25, line 19 of the specification) and no notice of a preference (pg 3, lines 1-4). Applicants further note that the new claim language is not a narrowing of the scope of the claims, from the original language of “an odor below a detectable threshold” as the two phrases describe the same property. As the cited reference describes an article in which a persistent fragrance is desired, there would be no motivation to use a sesquiterpene alcohol composition which has no odor above a detectable threshold.

The secondary reference of Liu et al. does not cure the basic deficiencies of the primary reference.

The reference has been cited merely to show the known use of a medical vaporizer. However this reference provides no suggestion to use a sesquiterpene alcohol composition which has no odor above a detectable threshold.

For these reasons the claimed invention is not obvious over this combination of references and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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